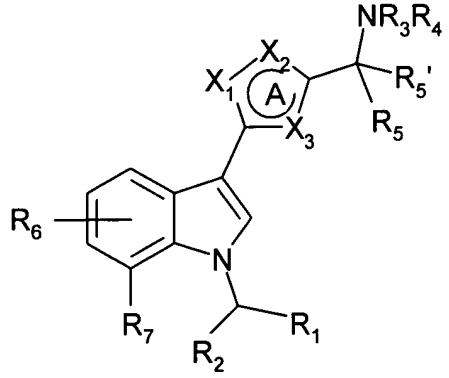
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims.

1. (Original) An (indol-3-yl)-heterocycle derivative having the general Formula I



Formula I

wherein
A represents a 5-membered aromatic heterocyclic ring, wherein X_1, X_2 and X_3 are independently selected from N, O, S and CR;
R is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; or
R, when present in X_2 or X_3, may form together with R_3 a 5-8 membered ring;
R_1 is a 5-8 membered saturated carbocyclic ring, optionally containing a heteroatom selected from O and S;
R_2 is H, CH_3 or CH_2-CH_3; or
R_2 is joined together with R_7 to form a 6-membered ring, optionally containing a heteroatom selected from O and S, and which heteroatom is bonded to the 7-position of the indole ring;
R_3 and R_4 are independently H, (C_{1-6})alkyl or (C_{3-7})cycloalkyl, the alkyl groups being optionally substituted with OH, (C_{1-4})alkyloxy, (C_{1-4})alkylthio, (C_{1-4})alkylsulfonyl, CN or halogen; or
R_3 together with R_4 and the N to which they are bonded form a 4-8 membered ring optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from O and S, and which is optionally substituted with OH, (C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{1-4})alkyloxy, (C_{1-4})alkyloxy- (C_{1-4})alkyl, or halogen; or
R_3 together with R_5 forms a 4-8 membered ring optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from O and S, and which is optionally substituted with OH, (C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{1-4})alkyloxy, (C_{1-4})alkyloxy- (C_{1-4})alkyl, or halogen; or
R_3 together with R, when present in X_2 or X_3, forms a 5-8 membered ring;
R_5 is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl; or
R_5 together with R_3 forms a 4-8 membered ring optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from O and S, and which is optionally substituted with OH, (C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{1-4})alkyloxy, (C_{1-4})alkyloxy- (C_{1-4})alkyl, or halogen;
R_5' is H or (C_{1-4})alkyl;
R_6 represents 1-3 substituents independently selected from H, (C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{1-4})alkyloxy, CN and halogen;
R_7 is H, (C_{1-4})alkyl, (C_{1-4})alkyloxy, CN or halogen; or
R_7 is joined together with R_2 to form a 6-membered ring, optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from O and S, and which heteroatom is bonded to the 7-position of the indole ring; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Original) The (indol-3-yl)-heterocycle derivative of claim 1, wherein R_2 is H or is joined together with R_7 to form a 6-membered ring, optionally containing a heteroatom selected from O and S, and which atom is bonded to the 7-position of the indole ring.

3. (Currently Amended) The (indol-3-yl)-heterocycle derivative of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein R, R_5, R_5' and R_6 are H.

4. (Currently Amended) The (indol-3-yl)-heterocycle derivative of ~~any one of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein R_1 is cyclohexyl or tetrahydropyranyl.

5. (Currently Amended) The (indol-3-yl)-heterocycle derivative of ~~any one of claims 1-4~~ claim 1 where the heterocycle A is 1,2,4-oxadiazole (X_1 is N, X_2 is O, X_3 is N), 1,2,4-thiadiazole (X_1 is N, X_2 is S, X_3 is N) or thiazole (X_1 is S, X_2 is CR, X_3 is N).

6. (Original) The (indol-3-yl)-heterocycle derivative of claim 1 which is selected from:
- 7-Chloro-3-(5-{[*N*-ethyl-*N*-(2-methoxyethyl)amino]methyl}-[1,2,4]-thiadiazol-3-yl)-1-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)methyl-1*H*-indole;
- 7-Chloro-3-{5-[(pyrrolidin-1-yl)methyl]-[1,2,4]-thiadiazol-3-yl}-1-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)methyl-1*H*-indole;
- 7-Chloro-3-(5-{[*N*-ethyl-*N*-(2-hydroxyethyl)amino]methyl}-[1,2,4]-thiadiazol-3-yl)-1-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)methyl-1*H*-indole;
- 7-Chloro-3-(4-{[*N*-(2-hydroxyethyl)-*N*-isopropylamino]methyl}-[1,3]-thiazol-2-yl)-1-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)methyl-1*H*-indole;
- 7-Chloro-3-(4-{[*N*-ethyl-*N*-(2-hydroxyethyl)amino]methyl}-[1,3]-thiazol-2-yl)-1-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)methyl-1*H*-indole;
- 7-Chloro-3-(4-{[*N*-(2-methoxyethyl)-*N*-methylamino]methyl}-[1,3]-thiazol-2-yl)-1-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)methyl-1*H*-indole;
- 7-Chloro-3-{5-[(2,2-dimethyl-pyrolidin-1-yl)methyl]-[1,2,4]oxadiazol-3-yl}-1-(tetrahydropyran-4-yl)methyl-1*H*-indole;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an (indol-3-yl)-heterocycle derivative of ~~any one of claims 1-6~~ claim 1 in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable auxiliaries.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of pain ~~such as peri-operative pain, chronic pain, neuropathic pain, cancer pain and pain and spasticity associated with multiple sclerosis, by~~ comprising: administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of an (indol-3-yl)-heterocycle derivative of ~~any one of claims 1-6~~ claim 1.

11. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the pain is selected from the group consisting of peri-operative pain, chronic pain, neuropathic pain, cancer pain and pain and spasticity associated with multiple sclerosis.

12. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an (indol-3-yl)-heterocycle derivative of claim 5 in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable auxiliaries.

13. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an (indol-3-yl)-heterocycle derivative of claim 6 in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable auxiliaries.

14. (New) A method of treatment of pain comprising: administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of an (indol-3-yl)-heterocycle derivative of claim 5.

15. (New) A method of treatment of pain comprising: administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of an (indol-3-yl)-heterocycle derivative of claim 6.